

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1488

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 14934

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, JA, CH, UR

SUBJECT: JAPANESE-SOVIET RELATIONS AND CHINESE TREATY

REFS: A. STATE 227727 (NOTAL); B. TOKYO 12294; C. TOKYO 12192

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY SHARES DEPARTMENT'S SKEPTICISM IN REGARD TO TAMBA'S CHARACTERIZATION (REF A) OF UPCOMING HATOYAMA-GROMYKO BILATERAL IN NEW YORK AS "FINAL CEREMONIAL HURDLE" TO RAPID CONCLUSION OF SINO-JAPANESE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY (PFT). RECENT COMMENTS BY FONOFF SOVIET AND CHINA DIVISION OFFICIALS SUGGEST THAT PFT WILL NOT BE MAJOR TOPIC IN HATOYAMA'S SESSION WITH SOVIET FONMIN AND FURTHER, THAT GOJ HAS NOT YET OVERCOME VARIOUS FACTORS INHIBITING EARLY MOVEMENT ON PFT. END SUMMARY.

2. IN SEPTEMBER 22 CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, FONOFF 1ST EAST EUROPEAN DEPDIR AOKI NOTED THAT HATOYAMA WOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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SEEK IN HIS MEETING WITH GROMYKO TO MAINTAIN ATMOSPHERICS OF IMPROVED, FRIENDLY BILATERAL RELATIONS WITHOUT ANY SACRIFICE OF BASIC JAPANESE POLITICAL POSITIONS (I.E., NORTHERN TERRITORIES). FONMIN'S IMMEDIATE GOAL, AOKI WENT ON, WOULD BE TO NAIL DOWN SPECIFIC DATE FOR HIS LONG-DELAYED VISIT TO MOSCOW.

3. IN SEPTEMBER 26 CONVERSATION, FONOFF CHINA DIVISION POLOFF TARUI EMPHATICALLY DENIED THAT FONOFF CONSIDERED HATOYAMA-GROMYKO BILATERAL AS ANYTHING LIKE "FINAL CEREMONIAL HURDLE" TO PFT. TARUI STATED THAT HATOYAMA WOULD BRING UP PFT WITH GROMYKO IN STANDARD TERMS, EMPHASIZING ONCE AGAIN THAT IT WAS NOT AIMED AT ANY THIRD PARTY; JAPANESE FULLY EXPECTED GROMYKO TO RESPOND WITH USUAL SOVIET INFLEXIBILITY.

4. TARUI NOTED THAT SOVIET DELAY IN TALKS FOR LONG-TERM FISHING AGREEMENT WAS MAJOR FACTOR IN GOJ THINKING. IDEALLY, GOJ WOULD TURN FULL ATTENTION TO PFT FOLLOWING ACCOMPLISHMENT OF LONG-TERM FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOVIETS.

5. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT TAMBA'S REMARKS MAY REFLECT THINKING WHICH WAS CURRENT IN TOKYO IN EARLY AUGUST, WHEN MOMENTUM APPEARED TO BE BUILDING ON JAPANESE SIDE FOR SOME INITIATIVE ON PFT (REFTELS B AND C). SINCE THEN, HOWEVER, LACK OF DRAMATIC PROGRESS IN US-PRC NORMALIZATION AND HATOYAMA'S INABILITY TO VISIT MOSCOW AT THAT TIME HAVE SEEMED TO UNDERCUT THIS MOMENTUM.

6. WE WOULD ALSO NOTE THAT IN ADDITION TO GOJ'S SENSITIVITY TO SOVIET DISPLEASURE OVER PFT'S ANTI-CONFIDENTIAL

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HEGEMONY CLAUSE, OPPOSITION TO EARLY PFT ON PART OF LDP RIGHT WING CONTINUES TO SERVE AS MAJOR INHIBITING FACTOR. HOST OF RECENT PEKING VISITORS, HOWEVER, INCLUDING LDP'S HAMANO AND NLC'S KONO AMONG OTHERS, SEEM INTENT ON RAISING PFT-ENTHUSIASM LEVEL. ILLUSTRATIVE OF MOUNTING PRESSURE FOR PFT WAS LOWER HOUSE SPEAKER HORI'S REVELATION SEPTEMBER 26 THAT HE HOPED TO VISIT PEKING IN NOVEMBER BUT WOULD DO SO ONLY ON CONDITION THAT PM FUKUDA HAD DEFINITELY DECIDED TO GO AHEAD WITH PFT. WE WILL HAVE CLEARER READING IN NEXT FEW WEEKS OF FUKUDA GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO OVERCOME DEEP-ROOTED DOMESTIC POLITICAL OBJECTIONS, PARTICULARLY IF DIET CONSIDERS PASSAGE OF RESOLUTION CALLING FOR SPEEDY PFT SIGNATURE.
MANSFIELD

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